

Cover

Comment



Marijuana Use At

"Epidemic Proportions"

In a recent report issued by the governor's council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse entitled "Marijuana: A Discussion Paper," a majority of Pennsylvanians used by the Council favored stricter laws governing the use of marijuana.

On 1,200 persons polled, 57 percent favored stronger criminal measures against marijuana useage and of these 57 percent, more than half were "not at all familiar" with the present laws regarding marijuana.

Contrasting this opinion the majority of people who were aware of the implications of the current laws felt that marijuana penalties should remain the same or become more lenient.

Describing the report as "the first in-depth account of this problem in the Commonwealth," Dr. Richard E. Horman outlandishly protrubulates his bias against the marijuana scene in Pennsylvania. This so called "problem" will be the focal point for public hearings this Spring. Wow, do these people need some insight as to what's happening in this "problem".

Bill Pennewill, in a PATRIOT NEWS article stated that "the report, while highlighting factors critical to the use of marijuana, excludes recommendations and alternatives." It also explores the attitudes of the Pennsylvania public towards marijuana, the impact of current laws, the health research controversy and law enforcement.

Horman listed six significant highlights of the report:

--A significant percentage of people in Pennsylvania are using marijuana and breaking the law.

--A significant number of people are costing the taxpayers a significant amount of money in enforcement costs.

--It is clear there is not uniform implementation of Act 64 (Controlled Substance, Drug, device and Cosmetic Act) but there is not uniform implementation of many laws of the commonwealth.

--Medically, the use of marijuana can result in psychological dependence, but so does the use of cigarettes and chewing gum, so it's not confined to drugs.

--A poll indicates that 57 percent of the people in the state want stricter laws and that is a highly emotional issue.

--There are many options available in dealing with the user of marijuana, ranging from stricter laws to decriminalization.

This so-called problem of marijuana use reaching "epidemic proportions," according to the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse needs some serious looking into. If all those "pot-heads" are functioning within our society, then the stuff can't be all that bad.

"marijuana is ground-up television parts"



The Capitol Campus Reader

The C. C. Reader is published by the students of the Pennsylvania State University at Capitol Campus, Middletown, Pa., and is printed by the Middletown Press & Journal during the Fall, Winter and Spring Terms.

Opinions expressed by the editors and staff are not necessarily those of the University Administration, Faculty or Students.

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Message Lenny Bruce: From The Pres OSWALD

I am deeply concerned at the harsh implications for Penn State of the budget recommendations presented in the Governor's budget message for 1975-76.

I thoroughly understand the status of the economy and the strained estimates of revenues in the Commonwealth; and Penn State, of course, expects to carry its appropriate share of adjustments to live with the economic realities.

However, the Governor's budget allocations for Penn State of \$123.6 million for 15 months is actually less than \$100 million on a 12-month basis whereas \$114.5 million was requested as absolutely essential for the coming 12-month period. A realistic and stern analysis of the Governor's proposal contains four most serious implications for Penn State.

First, the State's research support to the University is cut by 20 per cent, a slash which will require reductions in the research programs in food, energy, coal, oil, transportation and other areas at a time when society's needs in these areas are most demanding. A 20 per cent cut in funds for research, from \$17 million during the current year to \$13.6 million on a 12-month basis or \$17 million for 15 months, is an extreme deprivation which will greatly and regrettably affect many of our capabilities for service to the people of the Commonwealth for many years to come.

Secondly, the budget proposes a 14.5 per cent reduction in support of medical education. This comes at a time when our most modern medical center in the Commonwealth is coming into maturity and achieving national recognition, and at a time when it is beginning to fulfill the critical health care needs of rural Pennsylvania. Since the same amount for medical programs is allocated both for a 15-month fiscal period next year as for the 12-month period this year, the Governor's budget seems to assume there could be three months of operation without expenditures, which, of course, is not the case.

Thirdly, the Governor's budget provides no recognition of the mandated payment to the State of the \$4.6 million increase in retirement benefits alone or for adequate provision for increased inflationary costs.

Finally, it will not be possible to make salary increases of a desired level unless additional State funds are secured. Furthermore, implementation will have to be related to the fiscal year change.

Overriding all of these specific concerns is the paradoxical effect of the Governor's proposal of a

The Jewish American Prince Does His Thing

by fred prouser

Lenny Bruce espoused the philosophy that there is only what IS. The trouble with that particular notion during the Sixties was that in fact reality wasn't pleasant. Viet Nam, Civil rights and a myriad of other problems faced the nation. They were unpleasant and Lenny Bruce rubbed the Nation's nose in these problems. In the liner notes from Bruce's Berkely concert, Ralph Gleason summarizes the essentiality of Lenny Bruce: "Lenny Bruce was the prisoner of truth and no society will tolerate the voice which tells it the truth about itself because to face that truth is to admit it and be forced to change".

Bruce's Berkeley concert was the first concert performance issued in its unexpurgated form. It is an expression of one man's mind flowing effortlessly to a very receptive audience of lawyers, authors, poets and professors. This is not to say that Bruce aimed his rambling discourses to an esoteric few, but he felt comfortable with those who had an understanding of the basic concepts from which much of his humor and commentary was derived.

As an example, at the outset he tackles the dichotomy of the law and law enforcement. People want to beat authority but the two can not be separated. He muses that, "Everybody's ass is up for grabs- a groovy system". He views the legal system from an intimate vantage point. He has learned that, "you can't apply common sense to law". The whole question surrounding his obscenity busts is intent. He states, "Intent is the essence of the system". Art can be for arts sake, but when it gets a guy horny, how do you determine the artist's intent? Bruce is very legalistic when it comes down to these basic issues. Perhaps his fatal flaw was that he truly believed in the law, and to a larger extent, the American system. This is the one aspect of Bruce's life that is puzzling. He was an advocate of the American way, but his method of delivery- a stream of consciousness style interspersed with personal experiences, peppered with language that had heretofore been used only in small intimate circles. This approach shocked the mass of people who associated night club humor with the quick witted comedian who touched all bases but kept it on the up and up and CLEAN. That is one area where Bruce didn't follow the status quo at that time. His subject matter in the Berkeley concert ranged from religion to obscenity, drugs, marijuana, communists, LBJ, Jack Ruby, and the Jewish dream, midgets, Negroes, the Post Office, Mark Eden bust developers, Male-Female relationships, are there any real tits left?, divorce, Alaska, and the moral conception of the popular consensus. A broad range of material has been represented above and Lenny Bruce made each bit an insight as to where his head was at, at that particular time.

It was funny. Why? Perhaps Bruce's humor derives its thrust by presenting the truth in a way in which it is not exactly sugar coated, but with enough gloss that we swallow it at the time, with its greater message and true meaning coming to us when we go over the material in an attempt to deliver it (in our minds) as Bruce did. That's when the shit starts to fly in our minds and we realize that, "you know, he really knew what he was talking and about... why all the hassle over a couple of words that are common parlance today?"

Bruce's insistence on testing the constitutional limits of many laws, specifically free speech, was a valid contention. After being busted in San Francisco for uttering "cocksuckers", Bruce asked the arresting officer if he had ever used the word. That's chutzpah! It could be surmised perhaps that had he not fought for the right of the performer to have full freedom in terms of subject matter, humor today such as The National Lampoon, Firesign Theatre and the many satirists-comedians, such as Klein, Carlin, Cheech and Chong, Frye, and Little would not be able to do the biting incisive humor that characterizes today's modern scene.



transitional 15-month budget which works to the fiscal advantage of the State and to the fiscal disadvantage of Penn State. The critical factor at the University is the inclusion in the 15 months of two Summer Terms, which characteristically produce substantially less tuition and fees income than are needed for operational costs during those summer periods.

It is vital that the citizens of Pennsylvania and the many members and friends of the University community throughout the Commonwealth understand clearly the potential impact of the proposed appropriation.

With this shortfall of approximately \$14 million in State funds, it becomes obvious we cannot avoid a tuition increase.